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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY VRJ DATE 6 MAY 1982
REQUEST IDENTIFIER DATE
TO AGY.
EXEMPTIONS
DECLASSIFY
RELEASE
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

SUBJECT: GREEK COUP.

REF: LONDON 8693 - Pol 23-9 Greece

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1. QUALITY LONDON PAPERS APRIL 24 FEATURE KING CONSTANTINE'S REFUSAL SIGN DECREE SUSPENDING CONSTITUTION AND IMPOSING MARTIAL LAW, AND HIS INSISTENCE ON INCLUSION CIVILIANS IN CABIN TIMES, GUARDIAN AND DAILY TELEGRAPH PICTURE KING AS TRYING MODERATE EFFECTS OF COUP HATCHED WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE BY RIGHT-WING EXTREMISTS. LATE EDITIONS AND AFTERNOON PAPERS REPORT KING UNDER HOUSE ARREST.

2. TIMES DIP. CORRESPONDENT RENDEL REPORTS FROM ATHENS THAT MEMBERS NEW GOVERNMENT DIVIDED ON AIMS. YOUNGER OFFICERS WANT MILITARY GOVERNMENT PERHAPS INDEFINITELY, AND SEEM WILLING FORFEIT MONARCHY IF NECESSARY.

3. GUARDIAN'S MICHAEL WALL REPORTS FROM ATHENS THERE GROWING EVIDENCE GREEK PEOPLE "VICTIM OF CLEVER CAMPAIGN OF LIES AND MISREPRESENTATIONS" ABOUT KING'S ALLEGED SUPPORT OF COUP. KING WAS FACED WITH TERRIBLE DECISION. IF HE REFUSED HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH COUP LEADERS, MANY SERVICE UNITS WOULD HAVE FOLLOWED HIS LEAD AND CIVIL WAR PROBABLY RESULTED. AS THE PEOPLE BELIEVE

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XING AND ALL SERVICES SUPPORTED COUP, THEY BELIEVE AMERICANS DEEPLY INVOLVED. WHEN THEY REALIZE THIS NOT SO, RESULTANT DISILLUSION COULD HAVE SERIOUS RESULTS. ACCORDING WALL, GOVT. IS EXTREMIST AND DICTATORIAL. SPOKESMAN NIKOS FARMAKIS INVOLVED IN EXTREME RIGHT-WING POLITICS.

4. TIMES INTERVIEWED PRINCE PETER IN HONG KONG. PETER DEPLORED COUP AND WARNED IT WOULD LEAD TO VIOLENT COUNTERMEASURES BY LEFT. FOREWAW INTERNATIONAL COMPLICATIONS. ACCORDING DAILY TELEGRAPH, FORMER PRIMIN KARAMANLIS SAID IN PARIS THAT "PERILOUS ADVENTURE" IN WHICH GREECE NOW ENGAGED WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED IF PAPANDREOU "DISPLAYED ELEMENTARY PRUDENCE."

5. TIMES EDITORIAL SEES "SHADOW OF METAXAS." OPINES ARMY PROBABLY WILL NOT CONTINUE ACT AS UNITED FORCE. NOTES TURKS AND OTHERS LOOKING ANXIOUSLY WHETHER REGIME WILL PURSUE STRIDENT NATIONALISM OVER CYPRUS.

BRUCE

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NOTE: PASSED S/S-O, WHITE HOUSE DOD, CIA USIA, NSA 4/24/67 3:30 PM